

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Community Services Committee
DATE: March 20, 1997
TIME: 6:00 PM
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, William Calabrese,
Frank Dart, Joan Feldmann, David Lent,
Alan Lomita, Peter Naccarato
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Bob Aiello, Richard Gerentine
OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service
Susan McCarthy, Youth Bureau
Juanita Cinclini, Youth Bureau
Students from Kingston High School
class, Participation in Government,
whose teacher is Hugh Spoljaric.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Sue McCarthy from the Youth Bureau

- Sue spoke on the newly formed Ulster Partnership. This is a county-wide project that will include leaders and representatives from education, county and municipal government, business, not-for-profit agencies, community organizations, local foundations, and the media. The purpose of the project is to do a comprehensive needs assessment in the county and to develop strategies which will direct the necessary resources to meet these needs.

Sue is a member of the 12-person task force that will lead the project. In addition to this group, an advisory board is being formed that could consist of up to 50 members. They will offer their expertise and resources to this effort.

SUNY New Paltz will conduct two graduate seminars during the summer session. These students will gather information, conduct interviews, develop focus group questions, and format data and analyses. The final report will be completed by January 1998.

Sue was enthusiastic about the focus of the Partnership which will help develop a comprehensive county approach to planning for services. Sue remarked that Dutchess County has a similar program called Dutchess 2000.

William Calabrese asked why the focus was not centered on the youth in the county. Sue explained that helping families is helping the youth.

001-009

David Lent inquired about whether the schools were supporting the program. Sue assured him that they were. Schools are represented on the advisory board.

Alice Tipp commented that an advisory board of 50 was quite large. Sue responded that the advisory board can provide resources and information on what is needed and how needs may be satisfied.

Alice was pleased that Cornell Cooperative Extension was included on the task force as they are not just about cooking and sewing but also provide other services such as budgeting. Sue added that they have many youth development programs.

- Copies of the Youth Yellow Pages were distributed to the committee members. Sue told the group that of the 5000 copies originally printed, there are only 100 copies left. The bureau will need to find the money to print more.

Time permitted an opportunity to speak briefly with the students who identified themselves and told of their post-graduation plans. Alice asked the Committee members to introduce themselves with their names and the districts they represent. The students were invited to ask questions. Alan Lomita explained the passage of a resolution through the Committee and the Legislature. At 6:30, the students left to go to another legislative committee meeting.

Terry Breitenstein of the Veterans Service Agency

- The proposal for the primary care clinic is in Washington. The appropriation is available; it just needs to go through procedures. The VA will send Terry a form which asks what services are required for veterans in this geographical area. With this information, the VA will prepare the RFP. The bidder must provide the space and equipment and will be compensated based on the number of veterans served. The VA will stipulate the requirements for providing the service. When the approval has been received from Washington, the RFP will be distributed to interested parties who seek to provide space and the services requested. Bidders may be outpatient hospitals, consortiums, or similar operations. Terry has had inquiries about the clinic as has Alice.

There have some complaints about reducing services and downsizing hospitals but Terry explained that the purpose of the primary care clinic is to draw new veterans who need service and regulars will be encouraged to continue using the VA hospitals. The vans will continue transporting veterans to the hospitals as long as necessary and may also be used to transport veterans to and from the clinic. The shuttle van to and from Ellenville may need to increase its schedule. The agency now has three vans.

William Calabrese asked if the veterans could use UCRT. Terry said that could be considered. He wants to provide service without duplication. Alice added that UCRT has buses that are accessible to the handicapped.

Terry reiterated his pleasure that Ulster County was chosen to be the site for the clinic. He pointed out that it is a win/win situation for veterans and the area. He said it will be beneficial to the veterans and their families, providing a needed service while bringing people into the area for business, shopping, and other activities.

Kathryn Puglisi, Office for the Aging

- Kathy was not present at the meeting because she was on her way to Nashville to speak at the National Convention of the American Society on Aging. She had been invited by the University of Kansas to be part of a team on rural programs and was scheduled to speak about the Care-A-Van and the impact on senior health throughout the county. She provided a report which was distributed to the members in attendance.
- Pete Naccarato inquired about the cellular phones. Alice assured him the matter will be pursued. The issue had been addressed in Kathy's report.
- Alice told the group that Kathy was a speaker at a Kiwanis meeting and represented the Office for the Aging very well.

Alan Lomita made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Pete Naccarato seconded the motion. Following the vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee